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Hilda L. Solis
Mark Ridley-Thomas
Sheila Kuehl
Janice Hahn
Kathryn Barger

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, AGING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

3175 West Sixth Street • Los Angeles, CA 90020

Tel: 213-738-2600 • Fax 213-487-0379

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Cynthia D. Banks
Director

Otto Solórzano
Chief Deputy

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TO: Workforce Development Board

FROM: Martha Molina-Aviles, Program Manager
Martha Molina-Aviles (Gs)
Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services (WDACS)

SUBJECT: ALLOCATION OF COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES WIOA TRAINING FUNDS TO LOCAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AREAS WITHIN THE LOS ANGELES BASIN REGIONAL PLANNING UNIT

Recommendation

Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services (WDACS) recommends that the Los Angeles County Workforce Development Board (WDB) create an annual set-aside for all Workforce Development Areas (WDAs) in the Los Angeles Basin totaling \$60,000 from Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Adult and Dislocated Worker training funds to reimburse other WDBs, on a case-by-case basis, for the provision of training services to residents that live within the County's Local Workforce Development Area. In order to access these WIOA training dollars, WDBs would need to apply for reimbursement (via a form/application created by WDACS) every time they serve a resident that lives within the boundaries of the Los Angeles County WDB's service area and would have had to travel five (5) or more miles to access the nearest Los Angeles County America's Job Centers of California (AJCC). Funds will be paid on a first-come, first-serve basis and will be available until the yearly allocation is exhausted.

Purpose

Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services (WDACS) seeks WDB approval to allocate Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Title I formula Adult and Dislocated Worker funds to Local Workforce Development Areas/Workforce Development Boards in the Los Angeles County Basin for the purpose of providing training to residents of communities served by the County.

Background

Within the boundaries of Los Angeles County, there are seven (7) Governor-designated Local Workforce Areas: The City of Los Angeles; five (5) consortia boards, each representing a group of cities; and the County of Los Angeles, which serves 58 cities and all unincorporated communities of the County. In 2015, pursuant to requirements of WIOA, the Governor designated 14 workforce development Regional Planning Units (RPUs), to promote regional coordination among California's 45 local workforce areas. The 7 local workforce areas within the county were grouped together under the Los Angeles Basin RPU and have worked collaboratively to develop a Regional Workforce Plan and to develop a series of State-approved strategies to enhance regional coordination and alignment.

Each Local Workforce Development Area receives an annual allocation of WIOA Title I funds. Funds are allocated in accordance with a federal formula, which ensures that each area receives its fair share of the State's annual WIOA allocation. These funds are used to support the Boards' America's Job Centers of California (AJCC) infrastructure and services for job seekers, incumbent works and businesses. While job seekers may seek services from any center, local boards generally have limited resources to serve non-residents.

Benefits

This policy enables residents of unincorporated communities to receive training services from AJCCs operated by adjacent WDBs through the transfer of funds from WDACS to those WDBs. The policy recognizes that, for residents of some communities, travel to a County-administered AJCC is difficult and that WIOA training resources should be available to these individuals regardless of where they receive services. Given the unique nature of the workforce geography in the County, residents might be better served by AJCCs located outside of the County's service area.

Procedures

The WDB would authorize a yearly set-aside from WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker training funds to reimburse other WDBs, on a case-by-case basis, for the provision of services to residents that live within the County's service area. Expenses by the WDBs must meet the training requirements authorized under WIOA and State legislation.

To access these WIOA training dollars, WDBs would need to apply for reimbursement (via a form/application created by WDACS) every time they provide training services to a resident that lives within the boundaries of the Los Angeles County WDB's service area and would have had to travel five (5) or more miles to access the nearest L.A. County

AJCC to receive training services. Proof of mileage must be submitted with every reimbursement request. The following stipulations would also need to be met for a reimbursement application to get approved by the County:

- Training funds allocated to WDBs shall be used to provide training services to Adult and Dislocated Worker participants who:
 - After an interview, evaluation, or assessment, and career planning, have been determined by the WDB to:
 - be unlikely or unable to obtain or retain employment that leads to economic self-sufficiency or wages comparable to or higher than wages from previous employment, through Title I career services;
 - need training services to obtain or retain employment that leads to economic self-sufficiency or wages comparable to or higher than wages from previous employment; and;
 - have the skills and qualifications to successfully participate in the selected program of training services;
 - select training service programs that are directly linked to the employment opportunities in the Local Workforce Development Area (LWDA) or the Planning Region, or in another area to which the Adults or Dislocated Worker participants are willing to commute or relocate;
 - are unable to obtain other grant assistance including Federal Pell Grants, or require additional assistance beyond the monies available from other grants;
 - are determined to be eligible in accordance with the WIOA Priority of Service requirements;
 - select training programs that are on ITRAIN and the State Eligibility Training Provider List (ETPL); and
 - WDB shall make training services available in accordance with WIOA Title I Section 134(c)(3) and AB-1270 California Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, Chapter 94, and California Unemployment Insurance Code (CUIC) Section 14211 requirements.
- The requesting WDB would be required to record the appropriate activity codes within CalJOBS under the County's LWDA code and co-enroll customers to credit the requesting WDB as well as L.A. County WDB for service delivery. Enrollment in CalJOBS under the County's LWDA would ensure that the County is credited with service delivery, activity performance and expenditure performance so the County's WIOA formula funding allocation is not negatively affected in the future;

- The requesting WDB would be required to work with WDACS' Research & Statistics Division to obtain user access to the L.A. County WDB's LWDA code and would be subject to WDACS CalJOBS data entry protocols and procedures;
- The training provided must be connected to an employer in a high growth industry (as adopted by L.A. County WDB) that has made a commitment to hire;
- Over the span of a fiscal year, a single WDB can't apply for reimbursements that total more than 10% of its own categorical allocations under AB 1149 (formerly SB 734)
- WDBs shall report training expenditure performance, including leverage usage, under AB 1149 and CUIC Section 14211 under L.A. County LWDA's code.
- For each participant, the requesting WDB shall maintain training need justification on file or uploaded to CalJOBS and fully document training justification and activity progress in CalJOBS case notes.
- WDBs will be subject to monitoring conducted by WDACS and/or Los Angeles County Auditor-Controller and shall ensure full access to files for compliance review.

Existing sub-awards for work-based learning can be utilized as the pass-through mechanisms for transferring County WIOA training dollars to the other six WDBs that operate within the County. This would facilitate the process of disbursing funds in the most expedient and streamlined way possible.

MMA:mr